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Ana Infante

DT-6571

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Christian Lutz

SERIAL NO.: Not yet known

FILED: Concurrently

FOR: A Locking Device for Two, Displaceable Relative to Each Other  
Components

EXAMINER: --

GROUP: --

Mail Stop: Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicant respectfully requests that the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449, be made of record and considered in connection with the examination of this application. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed. Translation of the foreign language documents is not readily available.

U.S. Patent No. 5,787,759 discloses a position control apparatus for a steering column.

U.S. Patent No. 5,989,679 discloses a device for adjusting length, and/or height, and/or tilt of a steering column.

U.S. Patent No. 6,139,057 discloses a position control apparatus for a steering column.

European Publication EP 0 440 403 B1 discloses an adjustable steering column mechanism.

European Publication E 0 755 842 B1 discloses a guiding and locking system for a steering column and including a stationary element (21) and a displaceable, relative thereto, element (71) provided with respective toothed racks the teeth of which engage each other in the locking position of the steering column.

European Publication EP 0 796 780A2 discloses an interlocking device for opposed racks in an adjustable steering column.

German Patent DE 36 19 125 C1 discloses a receiving device for a height and inclination-adjustable steering column and including two receiving plates (6, 7) fixedly securable to a vehicle body and between which a steering column (2) is received. Each of the receiving plates is associated with a locking plate (21, 22)

and is connected therewith by toothing (23, 23). The receiving plates are secured to the respective locking plates by a clamping device (31).

German Patent DE 39 14 608 C1 discloses a steering column with a height-adjustable steering wheel and a length-adjustable steering shaft and including an adjustable steering column tube (1) which is connected with a support member (2) fixed to the vehicle body. For releasably connecting the steering column tube (1) to the support member (2), there are provided respective toothings (4, 6), with the steering column tube (1) being secured to the support member (2) by a locking element (5). To insure a reliable engagement of respective toothings, the locking element (5) is supported for a limited pivotal movement and for displacement parallel to the engagement plant.

German Patent DE 195 42 472 C1 discloses an adjustable steering support for a variable positioning of a steering wheel and including a rotatable locking bolt (8) rotatable between locking and adjusting positions, two toothing plates (10, 11) fixedly supported on the locking bolt (8), and two holding plates (2a, 2b) associated, respectively, with the vehicle body (being fixedly secured thereto) and the steering column and through which the locking bolt (8) extends with a clearance. In the locking position, the toothings of the toothing plates (10, 11) cooperate with respective toothings (2b, 3b) of the holding plates (2a, 3a).

German Patent DE 198 46 292 C2 discloses a locking device for a height-inclination-adjustable steering column with two components one of which is secured to the vehicle body and the other of which is formed as a steering column housing and each of which is provided with a toothing (5, 4, respectively), with the toothings being equipped with magnets of the same polarity so that they are repulsed when the tips of respective teeth are located directly opposite each other.

German Publication DE 198 39 496 A1 discloses a locking device for two, displaceable relative to each other, components (3, 4) of a height- and inclination-adjustable steering column and provided with respective toothed surfaces (6, 5). The locking device includes a support housing (10) for pivotally receiving the toothing surface (6) associated with the steering column component (3). The toothing surface (6) extends at an angle  $\alpha$  to the toothing surface (5) in the unlocking position of the locking device. The pivotal position of one of the toothing surfaces insures a reliable engagement at any position of the two components.

German Publication DE 199 15 341 A1 discloses a locking device for a height- and inclination-adjustable steering column having two, displaceable relative to each other components provided with oppositely located toothed racks (10, 20). In order to prevent incomplete engagement of respective teeth of the two

racks in the "head-to-head" position of the tips of opposite teeth, one of the racks (20) and a respective components (2a) are connected by a guide element (5) having several curves (3a, 3b, 3c, 3d) which provide for a limited relative movement between the toothed rack (20) and the component (2a). To this end, the guide element (5) is provided with at least one spring element (6).

German Publication DE 101 30587 A1 discloses a device for adjusting a steering wheel and including means (12) for adjusting a position of a steering column (2) relative to a support (3). The adjusting means (12) includes two locking members (18, 19) associated, respectively, with the steering column (2) and the support (3) and provided with cooperating (33, 23). To insure a complete engagement of the teeth of the opposite toothings, means are provided for pivoting one (18) of the locking members.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 26, 2003

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<b>Form PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b>		Docket No.: DT-6571		Serial No.: Not Yet Known			
		Applicant(s): Christian Lutz					
		Filing Date: Concurrently		Group:			
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
Exam. Init.		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if appropriate
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		Document Number	Date	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	TRANSLATION YES NO
	ALL	9 8 3 9 4 9 6	3/2000	Germany			X
	AMM	9 8 4 6 2 9 2	4/2000	Germany			X
	ANN	9 9 1 5 3 4 1	10/2000	Germany			X
	AOO	0 1 3 0 5 8 7	1/2000	Germany			X
	AP						
	AQ						
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		

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<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>																
Exam. Init.		Document Number								Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if appropriate		
	AA	5	7	8	7	7	5	9	8/1998	Olgren						
	AB	5	9	8	8	6	7	9	11/1999	Shelling, et al						
	AC	6	1	3	9	0	5	7	10/2000	Olgren						
	AD															
	AE															
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<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>																
		Document Number								Date	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	TRANSLATION		
															YES	NO
	AL	0	4	4	0	4	0	3	8/1991	Europe						
	AM	0	7	5	5	8	4	2	1/1997	Europe						X
	AN	0	7	9	6	7	8	0	9/1997	Europe						
	AO	3	6	1	9	1	2	5	10/1987	Germany						X
	AP	3	9	1	4	6	0	8	10/1990	Germany						X
	AQ	9	5	4	2	4	7	2	2/1997	Germany						X
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>																
	AR															
	AS															
	AT															
EXAMINER												DATE CONSIDERED				